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NOTES

Jack rabbits, lice, and certain horseflies (*Crysops discalis*) are instrumental in the transmission to man of the infectious disease of rodents now christened tularemia, characterized by *Bacterium tularense* in the blood. Francis reported in 1920 that the disease exists among jack rabbits, to which it seems fatal and from which it is transmitted to man by a blood-sucking horsefly. Later Francis and Lake discovered that the jack rabbits were infested with lice, which spread the disease among the jack rabbits. This explains how the infection is kept alive from year to year in Utah. Tularemia is seldom fatal to man, only one death due to it being known. It is, however, a disabling septic fever, occurring in Utah, which lasts from three to six weeks, and from which convalescence is slow. Its economic consequences may be serious.

The interest of the late Doctor Sir William Osler in Parasitology was evidenced not only by the fact that the subject was given such careful and special treatment in his Modern Medicine when it was briefly and imperfectly treated as a rule in other publications of that date, but also in the number of his own special contributions which bear upon that subject.

In 1874 he described blood platelets often erroneously interpreted before and since as haematozoa. In 1876 he wrote on trichina in an important lecture on Animal Parasites and Their Relation to Public Health; in 1877 he discovered and described the parasite of verminous bronchitis in dogs (*Filaria osleri*); in 1880 it was a hydatid cyst in the liver; in 1882 echinococcus disease in the liver and parasites of the frog's blood; in 1883 cestode tuberculosis and parasites in the pork supply; in 1887 haematozoa of malaria; in 1890 malarial parasites, amebic dysentery and microfilariae; in 1891 multiple cysticerci; in 1895 Laveran's discoveries; in 1899 sporadic trichinosis and blood parasites of frogs; in 1902 amebic abscesses in the liver. These and many other similar items listed among his writings show his constant attention to and interest in the growing field of Parasitology and the significance of these discussions for clinical medicine.

In a recent report the use of carvacrol as a substitute for thymol in hookworm disease is considered by A. E. Livingston of the U. S. Hygienic Laboratory. Thymol is costly and the supply is uncertain. By a recently devised method the supply of carvacrol is assured as a byproduct in the manufacture of wood pulp and at a low cost. Experiments were made on rabbits, earthworms and paramecia; these show that thymol and carvacrol have practically the same toxicity on the animals used. It is recommended that a careful clinical trial be made in hookworm cases where conditions can be fully controlled.